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Title: The Last Victorians: Literature of the 1890s  
 Status: Definitive  
 Code: **6123ENGL** (125771)  
 Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science  
 Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Sondeep Kandola	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ6      **Credit Value:** 20      **Total Delivered Hours:** 37  
**Total Learning Hours:** 200      **Private Study:** 163

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11
Seminar	22
Workshop	4

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	Essay (textual analysis) 1500word	25	
Essay	AS2	Researched essay 3000 words	65	
Presentation	AS3	Student Presentation	10	

### Aims

1. To critically examine the literature of the Victorian fin de siècle, both as a transitional decade between Victorian and Modernist writing and as a highly productive period in terms of the development of new literary genres that it

witnessed.

2. To explore the cultural, historical and intellectual contexts that shape the moment of its production

3 To critique material from a variety of theoretical perspectives

## Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Understand changes across a specific period and situate texts within the moment of their production
- 2 Analyse a range of texts in terms of literary genres and their cultural significance
- 3 Engage in small group research of a specific event (the Wilde trials) and present their findings

## Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Essay (textual analysis)	1	2
Researched essay 3000 words	1	2
Student Presentation	3	

## Outline Syllabus

1. Introduction
2. *Detective Fiction: Arthur Conan Doyle, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (1892)*
3. *Decadence and Degeneration: Arthur Machen, The Great God Pan (1894)*
4. *Female and Freelance: Ella Hepworth Dixon, The Story of a Modern Woman (1894)*
5. *The Other Victorians: Oscar Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest (1895)*
6. *Workshop: Reporting the Wilde trials (1895)*
7. *The fin-de-siècle fairy tale: 'Prince Alberic and the Snake Lady', Vernon Lee (1896)*
8. *The Poetry(s) of Empire: Rudyard Kipling and Sarojini Naidu*
9. *Working-class Subjectivity: Thomas Hardy, Jude the Obscure (1897)*
10. *Sex and censorship: Thomas Hardy, Jude the Obscure (1897)*

## Learning Activities

Lectures, Seminars, Workshops.

## Notes

Students will explore how the 1890s saw shifts in print culture and audiences and both the increased application of the obscenity laws and a growing commitment on the part of writers to engage directly with some of the most pressing and disturbing questions that shaped the final decade of the Victorian period. This module will examine some of the most celebrated and notorious texts produced in the 1890s and investigate how these Victorian texts responded to contemporary anxieties about societal and artistic degeneration, the rise of the new 'science' of psychical research, the state of the working classes and figures such as the 'New Woman'. To develop student awareness of the interplay between literary form, scientific discourse and historical events in the period, a seminar will also be devoted to exploring contemporary reportage of the trials of Oscar Wilde, an event that would appear to crystallise this module's interest in fin-de-siècle print cultures, 'deviant' sexuality, censorship and celebrity. Further afield, the module will also examine how poets and writers both celebrated and critiqued the more aggressive expansionism that shaped European attitudes to empire.